

**Alliance for Children and Families
United Neighborhood Centers of America**
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June 23, 2008

The Honorable Jim McDermott
Committee on Ways and Means
Subcommittee on Income Security
and Family Support
B-317 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jerry Weller
Committee on Ways and Means
Subcommittee on Income Security
and Family Support
B-317 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman McDermott and Ranking Member Weller,

On behalf of the Alliance for Children and Families, I am writing to express my organization's strong support for the Fostering Connections to Success Act (H.R. 6307). The Alliance represents nearly 400 private nonprofit social service providers throughout the nation, most of which serve children in the nation's child welfare system.

Among its many provisions, your legislation would facilitate the transfer of custody of thousands of children now in foster care from the state to relatives willing to assume legal guardianship, help many thousands more who are aging out of the foster care system, provide additional needed training for employees at private child welfare agencies like ours, and authorize direct administration by tribes of Title IV-E funded foster care programs.

We strongly support this legislation and urge its passage in the House. Please accept our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for your efforts on behalf of our nation's children.

Sincerely,

Patrick Lester
Sr. Vice President for Public Policy